

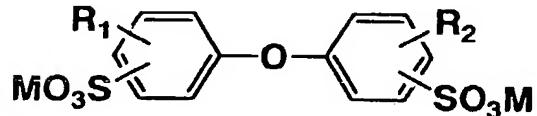
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing a lithographic printing plate, comprising:

exposing a photosensitive lithographic printing plate precursor having an image-forming layer containing an infrared absorption dye; and

developing the exposed photosensitive lithographic printing plate precursor with an alkali developer, in which the alkali developer includes an anionic surfactant containing a sulfonate group.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the anionic surfactant is an anionic surfactant represented by the formula:



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group which may be branched, and  $M$  represents a univalent alkali metal.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the alkali developer comprises: at least one of an alkali silicate and a nonreducing sugar; and a base.

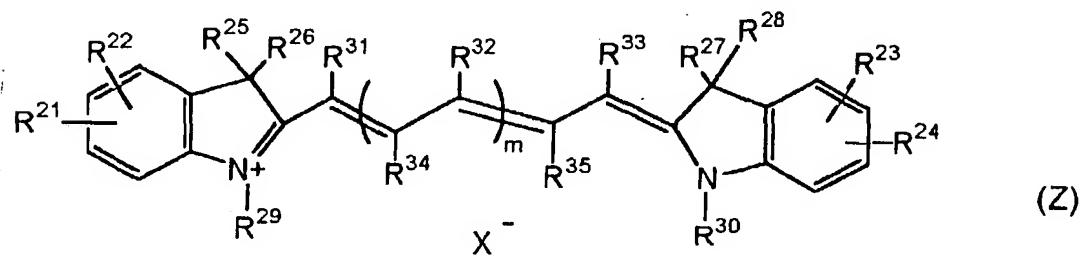
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the alkali developer has a pH of 12.5 to 14.0.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the alkali developer contains silicone oxide and an alkali oxide: M<sub>2</sub>O, in which M represents an alkali metal or an ammonium group.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the mixing ratio of the silicon oxide to the alkali oxide: M<sub>2</sub>O is 0.5 to 3.0.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the infrared absorption dye includes at least one of a cyanine dye, a squalilium dye, a pyrylium salt and a nickel thiolate complex.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the infrared absorption dye includes a compound represented by the formula (Z):



wherein R<sup>21</sup> to R<sup>24</sup> each independently represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group, an alkoxy group, a cycloalkyl group or an aryl group, each of which may have a substituent group, and R<sup>21</sup> and R<sup>22</sup>, and R<sup>23</sup> and R<sup>24</sup> may combine with each other to form a ring structure; R<sup>25</sup> to R<sup>30</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms which may have a substituent group; R<sup>31</sup> to R<sup>33</sup> each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms which may have a substituent group, R<sup>32</sup> may combine with R<sup>31</sup> or R<sup>33</sup> to form a ring structure, and, when m is more than 2, a plurality of R<sup>32</sup>'s may combine with each other to form a ring structure; m represents an integer of from 1 to 8; R<sup>34</sup> and R<sup>35</sup> each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms which may have a substituent group, R<sup>34</sup> may combine with R<sup>35</sup> to form a ring structure, and, when m is more than 2, a plurality of R<sup>34</sup>'s may combine with each other to form a ring structure; X<sup>-</sup> represents an anion.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the image-forming layer contains the infrared absorption dye in an amount of 0.01 to 50 % by weight based on the total solid weight of the image-forming layer.